

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

PRIORITY

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GROUP 1
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DIST 31 JANUARY 1968

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

3.3(h)(2)

17070-54-4

DOI

SUBJECT SITREP AS OF 1200 HOURS LOCAL TIME, 31 JANUARY 1968

ACQ

SOURCE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SITREP BASED ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION AS OF 1200 HOURS, 31 JANUARY 1968:

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A. DANANG. SMALL ARMS, MORTAR, AND ARTILLERY CONTINUED THROUGH THE NIGHT OF 30 AND 31 JANUARY SOUTH OF DANANG CITY WHERE THE USMC AIR BASE, IN THE VICINITY OF MARBLE MOUNTAIN, WAS SUBJECTED TO A SECOND CONSECUTIVE VIET CONG ROCKET ATTACK. THE VIET CONG SUSTAINED SUBSTANTIAL CASUALTIES ON THE NIGHT OF 29 - 30 JANUARY WHEN SAPPERS ATTACKED I CORPS HQS INFLECTING NEGLIGIBLE DAMAGE TO INSTALLATIONS. THE SECOND VIET CONG GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE DANANG RIVER BRIDGE WAS EASILY REPULSED BY THE USMC. DANANG AIR BASE

IS FULLY OPERATIVE AFTER A BRIEF CLOSURE FOR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC ON THE MORNING OF 30
JANUARY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO VIET CONG INSTIGATED INCIDENTS OR TERRORISM ACTS WITHIN

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DANANG CITY ITSELF. A DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY TOOK PLACE ON 30 JANUARY AT THE TIN HOA PAGODA IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE VIET CONG HAD WON A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY AND TAKEN OVER THE CITY. LITTLE REACTION RESULTED AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) AUTHORITIES MADE A NUMBER OF ARRESTS. THE GENERAL FEELING AMONG THE MILITARY, CORDS, AND OURSELVES IS THAT THE VIET CONG ATTACK AGAINST DANANG CITY FAILED IN ITS INITIAL THRUST AND THEY NOW ONLY HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF HARASSMENT OF MILITARY TARGETS WITH MORTARS AND ROCKETS, COMBINED WITH ISOLATED AND UNCOORDINATED SAPPER-TYPE ACTIONS.

B. QUANG TRI. ON THE NIGHT OF 30 - 31 JANUARY, QUANG TRI CITY WAS SUBJECTED TO A LIMITED ROCKET ATTACK AND VIET CONG INFILTRATION WITHIN THE CITY ITSELF. THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL WITH ONLY SPORADIC CONTACT NOW TAKING PLACE IN ONE AREA TO THE WEST OF THE CITY. NO DAMAGE HAS BEEN MADE TO CAS INSTALLATIONS OR PERSONNEL. UNSATISFACTORY COMMUNICATIONS WITH QUANG TRI PREVENTS A MORE DETAILED ASSESSMENT AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, SENIOR PROVINCE ADVISOR FELT THAT THE SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND AS OF 1200 HOURS, 31 JANUARY.

C. THUA THIEN. THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECT REPORT FROM RDC/ADVISORS IN HUE AND UNABLE TO REACH THEM. HOWEVER, FRAGMENTARY AND PARTIAL REPORTING THROUGH CORDS AND MILITARY CHANNELS INDICATES THE VIET CONG OCCUPIED THE CITADEL, SECTOR HQS, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER INSTALLATIONS. THE SITUATION IS UNCLEAR TO COMMAND ELEMENTS HERE IN DANANG.

D. QUANG NAM. THE EASTERN PORTION OF HOI AN CITY WAS OCCUPIED BY VIET CONG

MOST OF THE DAY, 30 JANUARY. KOREAN TROOPS COMMITTED TO CLEAN UP VIET HONG HELD AREAS AND STABILIZED THE SITUATION BY THE MORNING OF 31 JANUARY. HIEU NHON AND

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OTHER DISTRICTS IN QUANG NAM WERE HIT AT THE SAME TIME, BUT THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE AND RELATED DETAILS ARE NOT YET IN.

E. QUANG TIN. TAM KY CITY CAME UNDER MORTAR, SMALL ARMS, AND GROUND ATTACK AT 0445 HOURS, 31 JANUARY, BY ELEMENTS OF THE 21ST NVA REGIMENT, AND 72ND AND 74TH NVA BATTALIONS. HOWEVER FIGHTING HAS NOW SIMMERED DOWN AND THE VIET CONG REPULSED WITH CONSIDERABLE LOSSES. RDC/P ADVISOR REPORTS OVER 100 PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THE VIET CONG WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN GAINING OBJECTIVE OF OCCUPYING THE CITY AND HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE.

F. QUANG NGAI. THE CITY AND BINH SON, SON TINH, AND NGHIA HANH DISTRICT HQS COME UNDER ATTACK AT 0400 HOURS, 31 JANUARY. THE SITUATION IN THE CITY ACCORDING TO THE RDC/D AND PROVINCE SENIOR ADVISOR IS FLUID WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND ARVN DIVISION COMMITTED. IT WILL PROBABLY BE LATE AFTERNOON OF 31 JANUARY BEFORE THE PICTURE IS CLEAR ENOUGH TO GIVE A VALID ASSESSMENT. ADVISORS STRESS THAT VIET CONG CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN HEAVY AS OPPOSED TO LIGHT ALLIED LOSSES.

2. THE GENERAL OPINION OF THE USMC G-2 OFFICE AND CORDS REPRESENTATIVES IS THAT THE VIET CONG HAVE PRETTY WELL SHOT THEIR WAD, FAILED IN OBTAINING THEIR OBJECTIVES, AND HAVE SUSTAINED HEAVY CASUALTIES. DAMAGE TO UNITED STATES INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT IS RELATIVELY LIGHT AND OUR OWN CASUALTIES ARE SUPRISINGLY FEW. HOWEVER CONTINUED UNCOORDINATED GROUND AND ROCKET ATTACKS CAN BE ANTICIPATED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

3. ☐ DISSEM. CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT (ALSO SENT SAIGON).

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